

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05222 021254Z

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TAGS: AORG, EAID, OTRA, UN, US

SUBJECT: MERGER OF ISVS AND UNV

DAVID DICHTER OF ISVS CALLED AT MISSION TODAY AND HANDED
MISOFF PAPER TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS REFLECTING HIS PERSONAL
VIEWS ON SUBJECT MERGER AND MORE PARTICULARLY TRANSITIONAL
PHASE LEADING TO MERGER:

QUOTE. IN THE EVENT THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF ISVS
DECIDE THAT A MERGER IS ULTIMATELY DESIRABLE BETWEEN ISVS
AND UNV IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN MY ESTIMATION, THAT PRACTICAL
MEANS OF COOPERATION BE AGREED UPON AT THE OUTSET, PARTICULARLY
DURING ANY INTERIM TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. IF THESE "PRACTICAL
FORMS OF COOPERATION" WITH THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING ISVS COUNCIL
MEETING, SO MUCH THE BETTER. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD HELP
STRENGTHEN ISVS' BARGAINING POSITION WITH UNV AT THE TIME
WHEN THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE MERGER ARE WORKED OUT. IF, ON
THE OTHER HAND, THE QUESTION OF A MERGER IS LEFT IMMEDIATELY TO A
"TASK FORCE" OR "STUDY GROUP" TO DECIDE UPON, I HAVE THE
FEELING THAT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IS LIABLE TO BE LOST AND IN
THE MEANTIME ISVS' OVERALL POSITION WILL BECOME MORE AND
MORE UNTENABLE, SINCE THE COUNTDOWN ON ITS DISINTEGRATION WOULD
ALREADY BE UNDERWAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05222 021254Z

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD PROPOSE THAT FOUR PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COOPERATION BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IN ORDER THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISVS AND UNV BE INSTITUTIONALIZED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE:

1/. INCORPORATION OF ALL CURRENT AND PROJECTED ISVS/MWT PROJECTS UNDER SOME FORM OF "UNV AUSPICES." THIS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR UNV TO BEGIN TO GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WORKING IN NON-UNDP ASSISTED PROJECTS, AND ALSO PROVIDE A SUITABLE LEAD-IN PERIOD TO EVENTUAL UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, ISVS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE PRINCIPAL VOLUNTEER SENDING ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVELY MOUNTING AND OPERATING PROGRAMS INVOLVING INTEGRATED INTERNATIONAL TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS. SPECIAL EMPHASIS COULD BE GIVEN TO PROGRAMS IN PRIORITY FIELDS SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING, GRAIN STORAGE, NUTRITION, ETC.

2/. ISVS WOULD CONTINUE ITS RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE UNV PROGRAM, BUT IN THIS NEW PERIOD OF COOPERATION, PUT CONSIDERABLY MORE STRESS (WITH UNV FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) ON DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE RECRUITMENT MEANS IN 3RD WORLD COUNTRIES. THUS WHEN THE MERGER FINALLY TAKES PLACE, ISVS WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSURE UNV THAT A SUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES FOR IDENTIFYING AND PRE-SELECTING SUITABLY QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL FOR UNV SERVICE. UNV, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD BEGIN DURING THIS PERIOD TO ESTABLISH DIRECT RECRUITMENT LINKS WITH THE PRINCIPAL VOLUNTEER "EXPORT" ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

3/. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ITS MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND ASSOCIATED VOLUNTEER SENDING ORGANIZATIONS, ISVS WOULD BEGIN SETTING-UP REGIONAL RECEPTION/PRE-SERVICE TRAINING CENTERS IN INDIA (TO SERVE THE ASIAN REGION); DAHOMEY (TO SERVE WEST AFRICA); COLOMBIA (TO SERVE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION); AND AN APPROPRIATE SITE IN EAST AFRICA. AT THE BAD-GODESBERG AND VIENNA UNV CONSULTATIONS LAST YEAR, ISVS WAS REQUESTED BY ITS CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A PROGRAM AS PART OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CURRENT ISVS/UNV AGREEMENT.

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05222 021254Z

4/. IN ORDER TO TRY AND INSURE THAT "VOLUNTEERISM" REMAINS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNV PROGRAM, ISVS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE MERGER IS EFFECTED TO SERVE AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRINCIPAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AS IN THE PAST ISVS WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR UNV PROJECT AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS TO VERIFY THEIR VOLUNTEER SUITABILITY, ORGANIZE CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS AMONG ITS CONSTITUENTS IN SUPPORT

OF THE UNV PROGRAM, AND SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW FORMS OF
PARTICIPATION BY THE VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE UNV
PROGRAM. UNQUOTE.BASSIN

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